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## FAX REPLY

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number: 09/696,897  
Art Unit: 1636  
Application Filed: 10/26/2001  
Applicants: Ashok K. Shukla, Mukta M. Shukla and Amita Shukla  
Title: Mucin-Biomolecules Complex for Transfection  
Examiners: Konstantina Katcheves, Andrew Wang

April 12, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC, 20231

## AMENDMENTS

In response to the Detailed Action mailed on 03/14/2001 and an interview with the Patent Examiners on 03/27/2001, please amend the above-referred application as follows:

- A. As we described to the Patent Examiners during the interview on 03/27/2001, the publication by Thurnher et al. (Glycobiology Vol. 4 No. 4) does not anticipate our present invention because Thurnher et al. describe a different technology. While our present invention claims mucin as a vehicle to transport DNA and nucleic acids into target cells, Thurnher et al. used "poly(L-lysine) conjugates of the monoclonal antibody 1E3" to transport DNA to selected target cells. A mucin-type carbohydrate antigen on the surface of the target cells was shown to improve the rate of endocytosis of DNA by said selected target cells, in the Thurnher et al. publication. Mucin's role in Thurnher et al.'s publication thus did not include transporting DNA. We therefore request withdrawal of this rejection.
- B. Page 1, top of the page: Change "TITLE:" to "TITLE OF THE INVENTION:"
- C. Page 4, before the first full paragraph beginning with "The mucin-DNA complex as described" add the following section heading:

~~-SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-~~

A